

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treating acute pancreatitis which method comprises administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist at an amount effective to treat acute pancreatitis to a subject in need of such treatment, wherein said IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor which blocks signal transduction of IL-6.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22 in which the humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing pancreatic edema in pancreatitis which method comprises administering an IL-6 antagonist to a subject in need of such treatment, wherein said IL-6 antagonist binds to IL-6 receptor and inhibits the binding of IL-6 or gp 130 to the IL-6 receptor and which blocks signal transduction of IL-6.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing pancreatic edema which method comprises administering an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor at an amount effective to prevent or treat pancreatic edema to the subject in need of suppressing pancreatic edema, wherein said antibody blocks signal transduction of IL-6.

27-39. (Cancelled)

40. (New) A method of ameliorating the severity of acute pancreatitis which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist at an amount effective to ameliorate the severity of acute pancreatitis, wherein said IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor and which blocks signal transduction of IL-6.

41. (New) A method for preventing the onset of acute pancreatitis which method comprises administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist to a subject in need of such treatment at an amount effective to preventing the onset of acute pancreatitis, wherein said IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor and which blocks signal transduction of IL-6.